

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 13 are amended and claims 1-4, 6 and 14 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 5, 7-13 and 15-20 remain pending in the application. Re-examination and reconsideration of the application, in view of the amendments made herein and the following remarks, are requested.

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner (Mr. Qin) for the courtesy of the telephone interview held with the undersigned on April 18, 2006. During that telephone interview, the undersigned proposed to amend claim 5 to include the subject matter of dependent claim 6 (rendering claim 5 equivalent to an independent version of claim 6) and to also amend claim 13 to include the subject matter of dependent claim 14 (rendering claim 13 equivalent to an independent version of claim 14). As claims 6 and 14 were identified by the Examiner in the Office Action as being allowable, if amended to be in independent form, including all of the limitations of any base or intervening claims, the Examiner further agreed during the telephone interview that the proposed amendments to claims 5 and 13 would, likewise, place those claims in condition for allowance. In addition, the Examiner confirmed that, if claims 1-4 were cancelled, that the proposed amendment to claims 5 and 13 would be entered as a response to the Final Office Action, without requiring the filing of a Request for Continued Examination. Accordingly, Applicant makes the proposed claim amendments herein and requests entry of this Amendment and consideration of the following remarks. As discussed below, it is believed that the present Amendment places the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as being unpatentable over Miyashita et al. (U.S. Patent Publ. No.2003/0103422) in view of Kay (U.S. Patent Publ. No. 2004/0099125). In addition, claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyashita et al. in view of Kay and further in view of Takehashi (U.S. Patent Publ. No. 2002/0100359). These rejections are moot, in view of the cancellation of claims 1-4 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 5, 7-9, 13 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyashita et al. in view of Takahashi and Kay. These rejections are respectfully traversed, in view of the claims as amended herein and the following remarks.

Claims 6 and 14 were objected to. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 6 and 14 would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5 and 13 are amended herein to include features of dependent claims 6 and 14, respectively. Accordingly, by the present Amendment, claim 5 is amended to correspond to an independent version of claim 6 (now cancelled). Similarly, claim 13 is amended to correspond to an independent version of claim 14. As the Examiner has indicated that claims 6 and 14 would be allowable if re-written in independent form, it is submitted that amended claims 5 and 13 (corresponding to independent versions of claims 6 and 14, respectively) are in condition for allowance.

Claims 7-12 and 15-20 are each dependent, directly or indirectly, on one of the above-discussed independent claims 5 or 13. Accordingly, dependent claims 7-12 and 15-20 are believed to be in condition for allowance, at least for reasons as discussed above with respect to the independent claims 5 and 13 and for additional reasons apparent from the language of the dependent claims.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

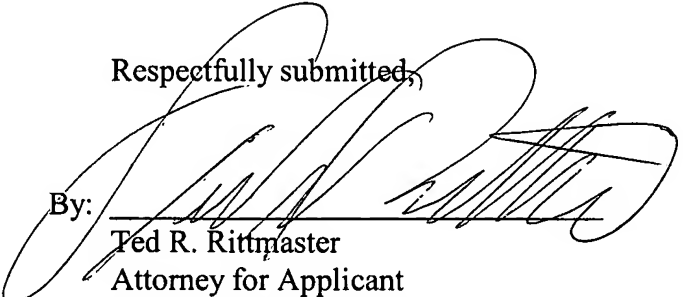
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check

being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Date: April 24, 2006
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 23392
Telephone: (310) 975-7963
Facsimile: (310) 557-8475

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Ted R. Rittmaster
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 32,933